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BOROUGH



OF RYDE, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

for 1953

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953.

(As constituted at 19th May, 1953.)

The Mayor—Councillor A. E. Aymes.

Alderman Russell (<i>Chairman</i>)	Councillor Evans
Councillor Ramage (<i>Vice-Chm.</i>)	Councillor Lewer
Alderman Chiverton	Councillor Matthews
Alderman Feakes	Councillor Slinn
Councillor Castle	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Cleaver	Councillor White

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1953.

Medical Officer of Health : D. WARREN BROWNE,†*
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Sanitary }
Inspector : } S. DUNMORE,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary }
Inspector : } L. N. JORDAN,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Clerk : MISS D. G. BOYCE.

* Part time Officer.

† Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,

5, LIND STREET,

RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1953. As last year, it includes an appendix by your Senior Sanitary Inspector in respect of work carried out by him.

Vital Statistics.

The number of live births increased by 43, to a total of 279, whereas the number of deaths decreased by 14 to a total of 289. These figures were insufficient, however, to cause a significant change in the adjusted rates per 1000 of the population, as compared with the previous year.

An analysis of the causes of death is given on another page. From this it can be seen that diseases of the heart and circulatory system remain the major killing diseases, both in males and females. Cancer (other than leukaemia) caused 16 male deaths and 32 female deaths.

Cancer of the lung, it may be noted, accounted for 30 per cent. of the total male deaths, but only 3 per cent. of the total female deaths. With regard to the possible causes of lung cancer, it has been suggested elsewhere that atmospheric pollution may be a contributory factor. It is interesting, therefore, to observe that the death-rate from this disease in the Isle of Wight follows the same pattern as for that of England and Wales, whereas the Island has virtually no atmospheric pollution on account of its favourable geographical position and the prevailing S.W. winds.

The suicide figures show an unexpected number of female deaths (5), as compared with none during the previous two years. Accidents caused five deaths, but of these none was due to motor vehicle accidents.

Infectious Diseases.

The heavy figure of 651 cases of infectious disease, as compared with only 50 in the previous year, was due to the very sharp epidemic of measles and whooping cough. Such epidemics occur, and will continue to occur, at regular and predictable intervals, so long as the child population remains susceptible to the diseases. Neither of these epidemics caused deaths, but they are still serious diseases and can cause severe and permanent disabilities.

So far, only gamma-globulin injections will give protection against measles, and then only for a very short period. This substance is not yet available in quantity in this country, but in America it is widely used to give partial protection to children who have been exposed to a risk of infection. Partial protection does not prevent a child from developing mild measles, and such an infection confers a life-long immunity on most subjects.

Tuberculosis.

Of the 29 cases notified during the year, 19 were fresh cases. This compares with 28 fresh cases during the previous year. Whilst it is satisfactory to be able to record such a marked reduction, it is a matter for serious concern that as many as 19 fresh cases occurred.

Although every effort is made to examine all persons who have been in close contact with sufferers from the disease, it must be assumed that the infection is, only too frequently, spread to others, in whom it remains undetected until it is well advanced. Every undetected case of infectious tuberculosis can be the cause of suffering and tragedy in many households.

For many years now we have had available B.C.G. vaccine which, if used widely enough (which it is not at present), can confer immunity on the susceptible members of the population. This, however, is not sufficient by itself, but must be used in conjunction with other measures.



Not least among the causes of failure to detect infectious cases is the reluctance of such persons to offer themselves for X-ray if they suspect that they may possibly have the disease. One reason for this reluctance is that they know that their employment may be jeopardised and that their income will be reduced.

Tuberculosis costs the community enormous sums of money each year, both directly and indirectly, and will continue to do so for many years at the present rate of incidence of the disease. Infected persons must be encouraged to come forward for treatment by offering them and their families a larger allowance. It is well known that the persons volunteering for X-ray, at the Mass Miniature X-ray sessions, are those wishing to confirm that they are free from the disease, whilst those who suspected that they might already have the disease stay away—usually for fear of the financial loss.

The next generation will wonder at our failure to eradicate the disease from our midst. They will be told it was due to lack of money, and when they learn of the vast sums spent today on tobacco, drink and gambling, their wonderment will be justifiable.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

B.C.G. vaccination is to be offered to all school children during their 14th year. This vaccination confers considerable immunity on those children who have not previously been infected by tuberculosis. It is hoped that there will be a wide response by parents to this campaign. It is emphasised that B.C.G. vaccination is essentially a safe and painless procedure.

Housing.

Fifty-five new houses were completed, and 50 families were re-housed during the year. Although many families are still on the waiting list, some living under deplorable conditions, the improvement since 1949 in the housing situation is very encouraging.

The effect of removing these families from conditions of overcrowded squalor to good modern houses is immediately evident on the health and well-being of all, and particularly in the case of the wife. Often she has, over a number of years, had to bring up her family in one or two rooms, sometimes at the top of an old Victorian house, sharing the gas-stove with others, using a communal lavatory, and sharing a bath should one be available. Few women can live under such conditions without ill-effect, either on their nerves or on their physical health. Their men-folk being out at work, escape their feelings of despair and frustration.

New legislation, under which sub-standard houses can with financial aid be brought up to reasonable modern standards, could transform the Borough's housing situation within the next two years.

National Assistance Act.

No fresh cases have arisen under which application has had to be made to the courts for the compulsory removal of any person to a place of care and attention. During the year, however, a number of old and infirm persons were so removed, but with their full consent.

Problem Families.

Every local authority has a certain number of problem families, and Ryde is no exception. So far we have not found the whole answer to the difficult question of re-settling them and at the same time keeping the family intact. Removal of the children to the care of the County Council is not sufficient as it does nothing to re-habilitate the parents. Voluntary welfare work by trained persons who can devote whole days and weeks to each family, by going into their houses and giving practical help, has succeeded in some of the large towns and could succeed in Ryde if volunteers could be found for this very arduous task.

I should like to record my appreciation of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the very stimulating interest, support, and valuable criticism that they have shown in the work of this Department.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. WARREN BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

(1) GENERAL.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	7,876
No. of inhabited houses according to rate books (as at 31.3.54)	...	...	...	...	6,177
Rateable value (as at 31.3.54)	...	...	...	...	£167,364
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£657
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	22.95 inches
Sunshine	...	...	...	...	1823.1 hours

(2) VITAL.

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	19,590
BIRTHS.	M.	F.	
No. of live legitimate births	130	128	258
No. of live illegitimate births	7	14	21
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	14.2
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	1.05
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	14.9
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	15.5
	M.	F.	
No. of legitimate stillbirths	6	2	8
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	1	—	1
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births			31.3
DEATHS.	M.	F.	
Total number of deaths	118	171	289
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	14.8
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	0.71
Comparative death rate	...	...	10.5
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	11.4
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...	...	3.5
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.	
	3	2	5
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	—	—	—
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births			17.9
Death rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	19.4
Death rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	52

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (1)	1 (1)
Tuberculosis, other	— (1)	— (—)
Syphillitic disease	— (1)	— (1)
Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (—)	1 (—)
Measles	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— (—)	— (—)
Malignant neoplasm. stomach ...	— (3)	5 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5 (7)	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	— (1)	6 (9)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	6 (4)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11 (15)	14 (14)
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3 (3)	1 (—)
Diabetes	— (—)	— (—)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	19 (16)	29 (32)
Coronary disease, angina ...	19 (18)	14 (13)
Hypertension with heart disease	2 (7)	5 (7)
Other heart disease	21 (36)	36 (38)
Other circulatory disease ...	3 (6)	2 (6)
Influenza	2 (—)	4 (—)
Pneumonia	5 (5)	13 (4)
Bronchitis	9 (3)	8 (1)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (1)	— (—)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	— (2)	— (1)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	— (1)	— (—)
Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (1)	2 (3)
Hyperplasia of prostate	7 (10)	— (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	— (—)	1 (—)
Congenital malformations ...	1 (1)	— (2)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4 (7)	15 (13)
Motor vehicle accidents	— (—)	— (—)
All other accidents	3 (1)	2 (2)
Suicide	1 (3)	5 (—)
Homicide and operations of war ...	— (—)	— (—)
ALL CAUSES	118(150)	171(153)

N.B. Figures for 1952 are entered in brackets.

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	13	2	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion ...	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis(In- fective) ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	482	6	—
Whooping Cough ...	140	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	12	1	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	1	—	1*
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ...	2	2	—
Totals ...	651	12	2

* This case was notified in 1952.

Age at Date of Notification.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Acute Poliomylitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomylitis (Non-Paralytic)
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	2	—	63	276	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
10	10	—	—	—	1	—	7	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
35	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	—	—	—	12	—	140	482	1	—	—	—	—	1	2

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	None
(b)	Number of single cases	...	...	...	None
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	None

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools.

Mumps	...	...	...	5
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	107
German Measles	...	...	...	24
Impetigo	...	...	...	1
Influenza and Influenzal Colds	...	...	...	13
				150

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

	Age under 5 years	5—15 years
Estimated percentage of the child population it is considered were immunised at 31.12.53	...	46.4
		59.8

(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere).

Tuberculosis, 1953.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " " 5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	4	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 25	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " " 35	7	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 55	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55 " " 65	4	2	—	2	—	2	1	1	—	—
65 " " 75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...†	29	9	11	4	5	3*	2	1	—	—

†Included in this total are nine transfers from the mainland, one case in which the death return gave the first information, and one old 'recovered' case re-entered on the register.

*This total includes one case who died from another disease.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944.

Number of samples taken during 1953 ...	...	...	84
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive ...	...	...	—
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated	...	...	4

Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1953, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

Part I of the Act.

1.—**Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	110	55	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	131	65	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector, and, as in the past three years, it is set out separately by permission of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Report follows the lines of previous ones.

There have been no changes in the Department's staff, and the year's work has gone through very quietly and smoothly.

The Report is set out in four sections, as follows :—

Section I—Sanitary Circumstances.

Complaints.

389 complaints were received during the year, which is an increase of 48 on the previous year.

Water Supply.

Water is now supplied throughout the Borough by the I.W. Water Board, and supplies have been maintained at a satisfactory level. The Knighton works, which, until the Board's formation, in 1951, supplied the Borough with its water, have continued to be the principal supplier, and they have been augmented by supplies from the Sandown Undertaking when necessary.

73 routine bacteriological samples were taken within the Borough, from taps at food premises, dairies, schools, public drinking fountains and private houses. All but two of the samples were reported to be satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were taken from two dwelling houses, following which the water services there were overhauled, and subsequent check samples proved satisfactory.

During the summer the mains supply to the farms and cottages in Rowlands Lane became inadequate. Water of four wells there was analysed to ascertain if it could be used temporarily until supplies could be improved, but the laboratory reports indicated heavy pollution in each case, and it was necessary for water to be transported to the district by the Borough Surveyor's Department. Negotiations are still proceeding with the estate owners to get the shortage remedied.

Drainage.

No major changes have taken in the Borough's drainage system within the past year. The bulk of the sewage discharges, untreated, direct into the Solent through six main outfalls, two being at Ryde and one each at Fishbourne, Binstead, Springvale and Seaview. These sewers have all been in existence for many years and take both sewage and surface water. With the steady rise in water consumption per head of population, installation of many new sanitary appliances, connections from new houses (nearly another hundred this year), and additional surface water, all these sewers are now reaching their working limit, and indeed, under storm conditions, they are subjected to very severe strain, which gives rise to fractures from time to time. The time is fast approaching when serious consideration must be given to either renewing and enlarging the sewers or duplicating the existing ones. It would also be more satisfactory if some form of treatment of the sewage, possibly incorporating comminution, was effected before discharge into the sea.

The small sewerage plant at Havenstreet serves this village, and the obsolete plant at St. Helen's continues to be of service pending decisions yet to be reached regarding the new works which it is proposed to construct there.

Public Cleansing.

This service is operated by the Borough Surveyor's Department. A weekly collection of domestic refuse was maintained throughout the Borough, and a trade refuse service was operated for the business premises. There has been a considerable increase in the estimated quantity of refuse collected, which amounted to approximately 9,600 tons, and

this was disposed of by tipping at Nettlestone. Great difficulty has been experienced in operating the tip, according to controlled tipping principles, because of a serious lack of covering materials, especially in the summer season, when the quantity of refuse is greatest, with the result that much more frequent spraying of the tip to endeavour to keep fly breeding under control was carried out than would be necessary if the exposed refuse was limited to the tip face. To add to the problem the tip fired during the late summer. It would seem that a solution of the problem of disposal of the Borough's refuse might be by disposing of as much refuse as possible by controlled tipping, and burning the remainder in a small modern incinerator plant, the latter being most usefully operated in the busy summer season.

Salvage was again very successful, both as regards the quantities collected, and the resulting profit following sales, 209 tons of paper, rags, metals and miscellaneous items produced £1,553. The Council operates a bonus scheme for the collectors whereby they receive a percentage of the total salvage receipts.

Infectious Disease.

The number of cases of infectious disease has again been very satisfactorily low, and only six premises received terminal disinfection.

The Council's steam disinfecting plant has been available for disinfection of any articles.

Caravans and Camping.

Eight caravans were licensed during the year, but of these only two were occupied continuously throughout the period. With the steady improvement in the housing situation, the number of persons wishing to use caravans as permanent dwellings has decreased, and the number of enquiries regarding permission to station caravans within the Borough became negligible. Liaison with the County Planning Officer has been maintained on all matters concerning caravans and camp sites.

Six privately-owned licensed camping sites were in operation. Two of these were used solely for tentage camping, two had caravans and tentage accommodation, and one was solely a caravan site. All camps now have satisfactory drainage disposal systems, and are equipped with water closets and ablutions. One camp has, in addition, shower-baths and kitchens, and work is in progress to add permanent chalets, hard standings for caravans, and a shop. These camp sites have been in very popular demand, and certainly provide a health giving holiday, especially for the large numbers of organized parties of children which come from the industrial cities and towns.

In addition, the two permanent holiday camps have been fully operational, and were patronised to capacity throughout the summer. These camps follow the usual pattern for such establishments, and are completely self-contained.

Swimming Pools.

Both the holiday camps at Puckpool are equipped with open-air swimming pools, having filtration and chlorination plant, which are supervised and operated by trained operatives. One pool, in addition to being used by the campers, was used by the Education Authorities for parties of children from the local schools.

Four samples were taken from the pools and submitted to the pathological laboratory for bacteriological examination. One sample indicated the necessity to increase the chlorine intake to the new pool at St. Clare.

Vermin.

(a) 44 premises were treated to destroy vermin, and this is a reduction of 11 on the figure of last year. There were no cases of bug infestation, and the treatment carried out were for flies, fleas, cockroaches and ants.

(b) 150 complaints of rats and mice infestation were received by the Department during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, and these were passed to and dealt with by the County Rodent Officer, who operates under the control of the

I.W. Rodent (Destruction) Joint Committee, comprising representatives and sanitary inspectors of each constituent local authority. Visits were made to 21 Council properties, 1,619 dwelling houses, 41 agricultural premises and 336 business and industrial premises, which resulted in the discovery of 6 major and 179 minor rat infestations. 132 premises with mice infestations were also dealt with.

(c) In common with other southern resorts, sections of the beach became infested with the seaweed fly (*cœlopa frigida*) in the late autumn. Where the flies caused a nuisance to householders, spraying of the beaches was carried out to reduce the nuisance to a minimum, and seaweed breeding grounds above high water mark were removed. No large scale action was taken, as we are hopeful that the infestation is only of a temporary nature, and that it will disappear before the 1954 'Season.'

Shops Act, 1950.

The number of shops on the register was 454, consisting of the large stores in the shopping centre and small or household businesses, the latter comprising the very great proportion of the shops. 295 inspections were made.

Factories Act, 1937.

There were 131 premises on the register on the 31st December, comprising 110 power factories and 21 non-power factories. Only one factory employs around 50 persons, the remainder comprising small businesses. 65 inspections were made, and 1 contravention found and remedied by informal notice.

Summary of Inspections and Visits.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	130
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	135
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—						
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	108
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, Etc.						225
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	161
Verminous Premises or Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	53
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10

Drainage Inspections and Tests	...	...	271
Cesspools, Sewage Works, etc.	...	...	11
Camping Sites, Caravans, Tents and Houseboats			82
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	14
Factories with Power	...	...	55
Factories without Power	...	...	10
Places of Entertainment, etc.	...	...	2
Shops Act	...	...	295
Schools	...	...	7
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	25
Swimming Pools	...	...	4
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	6
Foreshores, Streams, etc.	...	...	36
Dangerous Structures	...	...	14
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	129

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	50
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	52
Drains Connected to Sewers	...	...	2
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	16
Disposal Plants Installed	...	...	1
Offensive, etc., Accumulations Removed	...	...	10
Animals—Nuisances Abated	...	...	1
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	1
Cellars Cleared after Flooding	...	...	1
Contraventions Remedied in Factories and Workplaces	...	...	1
Contraventions Remedied in Camping Sites, Caravans, Tents and Houseboats	...	...	1
Contraventions Remedied in Stables and Piggeries	...	...	5
Contraventions Remedied in Shops	...	...	23
Smoke Nuisances Abated	...	...	2
Dangerous Structures Made Safe or Demolished			12

Section II—Housing.

During 1953 the housing problem has remained a serious one, and the Housing Manager's list of applicants for Council houses has only dropped by 42, to stand at 354 at the end of the year.

Local residents have also been active and taken full advantage of the Council's Small Dwellings Acquisition Act Scheme and taken up loans, the monies in many instances being used to build their own homes.

The number of new houses has shown a marked increase over last year's figures—55 new Council houses (38 last year) and 39 privately owned houses (14 last year) were constructed.

Repairs to properties have been carried out, and details of the work effected is set out at the end of this section. The response to informal notices continues to be good, and liaison by the Health Department with owners, agents and builders was very satisfactory. In only one instance was it necessary to serve a formal notice.

During the year seven dwelling houses were represented, under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, for demolition—three were demolished, two were closed, the owner giving an undertaking not to let them for habitation, and two were modernized and converted into one house.

Details of Inspections, Visits, Etc.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	108
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	131
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—						
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	321
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	..	76
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—						
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	83
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.						276
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	81
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	36

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	4
Chimneys—Downdraught Reduced	...	...	1
Ceilings Repaired, Renewed or Provided	...	...	10
Dampness Abated	...	...	43
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	12

Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	...	...	7
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	14
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	29
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	40
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	2
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	...	...	1
Sashcords Provided or Repaired	...	...	29
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	2
Walls (External) Repointed or Repaired	...	...	9
Walls (Internal) Repaired	...	...	28
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	19
Water Supplies Provided	...	...	1
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	...	...	1
New W.C's Provided	...	...	6
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	5
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	18
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	9
New Dustbins Provided	...	...	1

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

At the end of the year there were 294 premises operating in the Borough. This figure excludes licensed premises.

Clean Food.

Efforts to maintain the standard of hygiene in the food premises and raise it wherever possible have been energetically continued, as will be seen from the number of inspections, interviews with proprietors and contraventions remedied, as set out in the details at the end of this section. Co-operation on all matters by members of the various trades has been encouraging. Complaints concerning food premises have been very few, and referred only to minor faults. As Ryde is a seaside town, with a considerable number of restaurants, cafes and shops, catering in the course of a year for thousands of residents and visitors, this is felt to be satisfactory. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Meat Inspection, etc.

There was no slaughtering of animals carried out within the Borough, all animals being slaughtered and inspected elsewhere prior to delivery and sale. Routine inspections and condemnations of meat have, however, been carried out.

The following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit:—

Meat (Home Killed)	...	5 cwt. 17lb.
Poultry		49 lb. approx.
Rabbits		150 lb. „
Fish		16 stones 5 lb.

Condemned Foods, etc.

The quantities of tinned and packed foods condemned during the year has shown a considerable decrease. This is probably due to the re-appearance of many varieties of high-class tinned foods, and increased quantities of fresh foods, as various varieties have been de-rationed, and this has enabled the shop keepers to avoid purchasing doubtful quality varieties, many of which were poorly canned or packed.

The following items of food were found to be unfit for human consumption, and condemned:—

Cooked Meats		347 lb.
Bacon		34 lb.
Cheese		34 lb.
Miscellaneous Groceries		10 lb.
Corn Flakes		32-12 oz. pkts.
Meat, Milk, Fish, Vegetables, Fruit, etc.		1,691 tins and jars.

Food Analysis.

85 samples of food were purchased by the County Council sampling Officers, and submitted for analysis, as follows:—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Composition</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Comp. Label</i>
Soyolk	1	
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2	
Jam	6	
Olive Oil	2	
Table Jelly	1	
Fish Paste	1	
Milk	2	1 (Added water—Caution)
Tincture of Iodine	1	

Almond Oil	1	
Camphorated Oil	1	
Parrish's Food	1	
Self-raising Flour	5	
Condensed Milk	1	
Cough Cure	1	1 (Chemist agreed to amend advertisements and label)
Puff Pastry	1	
Suet, Shredded	1	
Tinned Meat	1	
Pine Inhalent	1	
Anti-catarrh Essence	1	
Garlic Perles	1	
Lemon Juice	2	
Diabetic Sugar Substitute	1	
Vegetable Cooking Fat	1	
Glucose Drink	1	1 (Manufacturer agreed to amend advertisements and label)
Fruit Preserve		1 (Standards Committee consulted. Negotiations with manufacturer still proceeding)
Wholemeal Flour	1	
Gluten Bread	2	2 (Negotiations still pending)
Sugar Confectionery	3	
Ice Cream	7	
Sterilised Cream	2	
Alcoholic Beverage	2	
Soft Drink	1	
Stuffing	1	
Phensic	1	
Butter	8	
Fish Cake	1	
Mincemeat	1	
Fever Mixture	1	
Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	1	
Meat Paste	1	

Compound Epsom Salts	1	1 (Retailer destroyed stocks)
Cheese Spread	*1	
Vinegar	7	
High Protein Food	1	1 (Enquiries pending)
Zinc and Castor Oil	1	
Boric Acid Ointment	1	
Food Beverage	1	

*This product contained more water than the Standards Committee recommendation, but no action can be taken.

Milk Supplies.

11 distributors remain, as previously, on the register.

A considerable amount of milk now consumed in the Borough is pasteurized, the heat treatment of which is done in the Newport Borough. There have been several instances of milk being supplied to customers in bottles contaminated with other substances. These instances have occurred where bottles are washed and filled by machinery, and it has therefore been necessary to require additional precautions to be taken to prevent such bottles getting through into circulation. The fault is primarily due to householders, schools, and others failing to rinse the bottles after use, and using them for the storage of various liquids other than milk before returning them to the dairies.

The following registrations and licences were operative during the year :—

Registration as Distributor of Milk	...	...	11
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy	...	...	9
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	10
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	8

Ice Cream.

The popularity of this product has continued to grow, and a further 14 premises have been added to the register of

premises licensed to store and sell ice cream, making a grand total of 130. No additional manufacturers have been established, and the two premises previously registered remain in use.

During the year, 12 informal samples were taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue Reduction Test), and the results were as follows :—

Grades	I	II	III	IV
	6	4	—	2

Bakehouses.

At the end of the year 19 bakehouses were in operation in the Borough—this is two less than last year. None is an underground bakehouse. These bakehouses are operated quite satisfactorily, although most of them remain in need of modernization.

Licensed Premises.

64 licensed premises have been inspected, and, with two exceptions, the hygiene standards have been very satisfactory. The principal structural defect which exists at several of the old licensed premises is the absence of female sanitary accommodation, and the owners are to be asked to remedy this defect.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	10
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.						106
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—						
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	49
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	24
Fishmongers and Poulterers			...	...	...	12
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grocers and Other Food Shops				...	...	46
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	34
Fried Fish Shops			...	...	..	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	26
Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Premises		...	...	...	...	40
Restaurants and Kitchens			...	...	...	73

Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	22
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	85
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	30
Food Enforcement	...	...	...	...	...	104
Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	22

Contraventions Remedied in :—

Food Premises	...	..	...	...	...	102
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Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II and III).

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	...	182
Public Health Act (Formal)	..	...	...	...	15
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	5
Housing Act (Informal)	...	...	...	...	4
Housing Act (Formal)	...	...	...	...	1
Factories Act, Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	—
Factories Act, Non-Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	6
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	51
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	6

Section IV—Miscellaneous.

In addition to the duties carried out by this Department in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935-51, the following duties are administered: —

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

During the licensing year 1953-54, commencing 1st May, 1953, 41 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, and the total amount for which these licences were issued was 38,240 gallons. Three licences to store 190 gallons of petroleum mixtures were issued. £27 in fees, was paid to the local authority for the above licences.

55 visits were made to the garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with. One new petroleum storage tank and pump was installed this year, the installation of which was supervised through all stages.

Shops Act—Closing Hours.

The Department is responsible for the compliance with “hours of closing” by shops within the Borough, as required by the shops Act and various Closing Orders made in past years by the Council. Early in the year the various Closing Orders made in past years were revised by the Council and brought into conformity with present legislation.

Hackney Carriages and Drivers.

49 hackney carriages were licensed during the licensing year 1953/54, commencing 1st May, 1953. The Council's Byelaws made in respect of such vehicles are administered by the Health Department, and resulted in 175 inspections and visits being made.

The drivers of these vehicles are also subject to similar control, and 52 were issued with hackney carriage drivers' licences during the licensing year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Three premises have been licensed as pet shops, and these have been operated in accordance with their conditions of licence. The shops in question are small and in the main the pets offered for sale are tortoises, hamsters, birds and fish.

Lectures, Talks, etc.

As in past years, co-operation with the Hospital Authorities has continued, and lectures and demonstrations on public health work have been given to trainee nurses preparing for their S.R.N. examinations. Following invitations received from several local organizations, talks have been given on the work of sanitary inspectors, and more such invitations would be welcomed, as it is apparent, from questions asked at the talks, that the general public is not well informed on the work of the Public Health Department.

May I, in closing my Report, thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support,

the Medical Officer of Health and other Chief Officers for their help given whenever requested, and Mr. Jordan and Miss Boyce for their ever willing co-operation and enthusiastic assistance.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. DUNMORE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



